to the more rapid movements and higher momentum of the molecules. And yet these must continue to attract one another so long as the liquid is at a lower temperature than its boiling point; or they would fly apart, and the liquid would expand into a gas many times its volume.

The stricter mechanists repudiated the belief in forces as superstitious; for it would commit us to belief in action at a distance, which they regarded with abhorrence. These therefore confined the activities of the molecules to * pellating ' and ᶜ tractating ' one another.[1] But how molecules can ' tractate ' unless they are somehow locked together is not made clear; and, unless we assume forces of repulsion acting at a distance, even ᶜ pellation ᴶ is not easy to conceive when both atoms and molecules are resolved into swarms of minute entities, the electrons, circulating in orbits vastly wider than themselves. The difficulty of gravitation was passed over lightly; as with the pressure of the atmosphere, we were so well accustomed to it that we had ceased to be troubled by it,

If one were permitted to regard gravitation as the manifesta-tion of a force of reciprocal attraction, one might ask whether it is the same force of attraction which holds closely locked the molecules of the solid, allows the molecules of the liquid a freer movement, and fails to hold them together in the gaseous state, when they seem given up to a riot of * pellation '. Yet even gases gravitate, and therefore would seem to * tractate ' across vast spatial

distances. Gravitation remained admittedly a mystery unsolved by any purely mechanical theory, and so remains to the present day, a darkness only made startlingly visible by Prof. Einstein's suggestion that it is all due

[1] Cf, Prof. Soddy's views in his volume *Matter and Energy.*